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Mr. *Eliot's*

Thanksgiving

S E R M O N,

October 25<sup>th</sup>. 1759.



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Mr. Elliot

Thanksgiving

S E R M O N

October 25th 1759

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
455 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK

A  
S E R M O N

Preached *October 25<sup>th</sup>* 1759.

Being a DAY of

*Public* T H A N K S G I V I N G

Appointed by AUTHORITY,

For the Success

Of the BRITISH Arms this Year ;

Especially

In the Reduction of

Q U E B E C,

The Capital of *CANADA*.

---

By ANDREW ELIOT, M. A.

Pastor of the New-North Church in *Boston*.

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for J. WINTER in *Union-street*, opposite to the *Kings Arms*.

M,DCC,LIX.

# S E R M O N

Preached October 18th 1787.

Being a DAY of

Public Fasting and Praying

Associated by Agreement

of the Churches of the

Of the Baptist Church in the Year

1787.

In the Town of

S E R M O N

The Gospel of the Kingdom

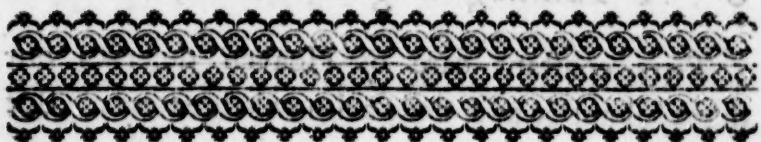
By Andrew A. Phelps

Pastor of the Baptist Church in the Town of

1787.

1787.

1787.



P S A L M cxxvi. 3.

*The Lord hath done great things for us,  
whereof we are glad.*

**W**HEN we consider our unworthiness, every instance of divine goodness appears great and surprising. Creatures who have transgressed the laws of their maker with so many circumstances of baseness and ingratitude, could reasonably expect nothing but "indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish". It would be great goodness only to defer, much more to remit their punishment : It would be still greater to bestow favors upon them.

In this view of things, how many and great are our obligations to God, " who redeemeth our lives  
" from destruction, and crowneth us with loving-  
" kindness and tender mercies" ! He protects us amidst a thousand dangers : He makes the most kind and generous provision for us : His acts of goodness are daily renewed ; we experience his  
" loving-kindness in the morning, and his faith-  
" fulness every night".

THIS



## 6 A *Thanksgiving* SERMON.

THIS constant care of Heaven deserves our thankful notice and daily acknowledgements. But there are, in the course of providence, some uncommon events, some illustrious displays of divine power and goodness, which call for peculiar attention and give special occasion for praise. There is no time when we have not reason to bless the name of that kind Being who daily "loadeth us " with his benefits ;" but there are seasons, when providence calls us to such expressions of joy, as would not be decent at other times ; there is " a " time to laugh".

AGREABLE to this has been the practice of good men in all ages. They have not been unmindful of the common blessings of providence ; but when they have experienced any remarkable salvation, they have taken care particularly to express their gratitude to the God of heav'n.—This is the tenor of the psalm which contains my text ; and which, it is supposed, was wrote by Ezra, or some other man of God, at the return of Israel from Babylon. " When the Lord turned again the captivity of " Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was " our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue " with singing : Then said they among the hea- " then, the Lord hath done great things for them. " The Lord hath done great things for us ; we are " glad". How suitable a frame ! When God had  
by

## A *Thanksgiving* SERMON. 7

by a surprising turn in providence, bro't them back after a long captivity to their own land ; to the enjoyment of their civil and religious privileges.

WHAT was right and fit then is right and fit now. When God is pleased signally to preserve and bless us ; when he does great things for the community to which we belong ; when there are events which are like greatly to promote the interest of religion and liberty, we ought to rejoice and be glad.

I SPEAK of this as a duty : So far indeed as Joy is merely the exercise of passion, it is not perhaps a voluntary thing, but proceeds from animal nature. It is a part of religion, when we consider the events which give us this pleasing sensation as ordered by God ; when our minds are affected with a sense of his goodness ; when it attracts our love to him, and disposes us to every return of gratitude we are capable of ; to speak well of his name, to praise him for his goodness, “ to bring forth those fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of God”. All this is included in or connected with religious joy, with that joy which we ought to express, when God does great things for us.

THE tendency of all God's dispensations towards us is to reclaim us from sin, to make us holy and obedient.



## 8 A *Thanksgiving* SERMON.

obedient. Afflictions are design'd to awaken and alarm us ; to convince us of the evil of sin ; to humble us for what has been amiss ; to produce a holy watchfulness and circumspection.—The mercies of God set him before us in a most amiable light, who does good to the evil and unthankful ; they show the ingratitude of moral evil ; they tend to melt us into that “godly sorrow”, which “worketh repentance unto life not to be repented of” : And if they meet with an ingenuous mind, these dispensations will have at least as powerful effect as the other, “the goodness of God leadeth to repentance” : The greater or the more visible this goodness is, so much the more certain and the more evident should the effect be.

THE greatest instance of divine goodness that ever was, or perhaps can be exhibited, is the gift of his Son to save a lost and perishing world. This was goodness which had every circumstance to denominate it great.—It was of the greatest importance to the children of men ; the design of it was to rescue them from the depths of misery, and to make them compleatly happy.—It was pure, unmixed, disinterested love ; God could not stand in need of us, or be made any better or happier by us ; He is by a necessity of nature as great, as excellent, as happy, as it is possible for him to be.—It was exercised towards creatures who had render'd themselves

## A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N. 9

themselves unworthy of it by their impiety and wickedness ; who deserved to be punished and not rewarded ; to receive evil and not good at the hands of God.—Every outward mercy almost disappears before this great, this infinite, this comprehensive grace.—This amazing act of love should be ever in our minds, it should be a continual source of joy, the constant subject of our praise, a daily excitement to gratitude and obedience. To this it is owing that we live, or have any comfort in life. To this we are indebted for all the goodness in which God passes before us in this world, and for the agreeable expectations we have in another.—This stupendous act of grace is the admiration of Angels ; these glorious spirits “ desire to look into” the wonders of redeeming love ; they contemplate on the wisdom and goodness of this great work, with sacred delight ; this affords them a new subject of praise, a new occasion of joy. They rejoice that God has got to himself new honor, and appears in a character they were strangers to before. Before, they knew him to be “ good to all” and that “ his tender mercies are over all his works” : Now, He reveals himself to be a God “ forgiving “ iniquity and transgression, and sin”. They see there is room for the recovery of man, for his restoration to the image and favor of God : That he, whom they looked upon as irrecoverably lost, is happily found : That he, who appeared to be

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## 10 A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N.

sunk in an abyss of misery, is raised to the prospect of eternal happiness and glory : That all this is done without any dishonor to the perfections of God ; that they are magnified and made to shine with greater brightness than they did before.— Their love to God, their benevolence to men, move them to tune their harps to this joyful sound, “ glory “ to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good “ will towards men”.

WHILE Angels have their anthems of praise on this occasion, shall we be silent and unaffected ! We, for whom God has done these great things, and who are to reap all the advantage !—We ought to be ashamed, to blush at the tho’t of such ingratitude. Let us rather lift up our hearts and voices in songs of praise to Him, who “ hath visited and “ redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn “ of salvation for us in the house of his servant “ David”.—To Him, who hath so loved a sinful world, as to give his only begotten and dearly beloved Son, “ that whosoever believeth in him should “ not perish, but have everlasting life”.—To Him, who hath favored us with the glad tidings of salvation, “ hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings “ in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”, from being heirs of hell, has advanced us to the hope of “ an “ inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that “ fadeth not away”.—To Him, who “ hath raised “ up

## A *Thanksgiving* SERMON. II

“ up his Son Jesus and set him at his own right  
“ hand in the heavenly places. Far above all prin-  
“ cipality and power, and might and dominion,  
“ and every name that is named, not only in this  
“ world, but also in that which is to come : and  
“ hath put all things under his feet, and gave him  
“ to be head over all things to the Church”—Every  
new instance of divine goodness, every mercy in  
providence, every blessing of grace should lead our  
tho'ts to Christ who is the fountain from whence  
all our mercies flow, and we should take occasion  
from thence to bless God for redeeming love.  
Christ has purchased all the good we receive, and  
He is the immediate dispenser of it.—All power is  
given to him, he rules in the kingdom of provi-  
dence, as well as in the kingdom of grace.

WHAT Christ does for our souls, and to promote  
our happiness in another world, undoubtedly  
deserves our first and most grateful acknowledg-  
ments, because our souls are of more worth than  
our bodies, and time bears no proportion to Eter-  
nity.—But outward and temporal mercies are not  
for this reason to be passed over in silence. They  
are still mercies, and sometimes they are such as  
discover distinguishing goodness, and have a near  
connection with spiritual and eternal blessings.

God does great things in providence. An event  
may justly be denominated great, when it is of a very  
B 2 interesting

## 12 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

interesting nature ; as when it nearly affects us, our persons, our families, our country.—Or, when it is bro't about in an extraordinary and uncommon manner.—It is greatest of all, when both these circumstances meet ; when God grants great salvation in a way that is surprising and unexpected.

WHEN *Joshua* went up against *Ai*, and destroyed the city with it's inhabitants, it was an event of great importance to *Israel*, who were just entering *Canaan*, and had met with an humbling repulse before that little city. But there was otherwise nothing great in that expedition. The means were quite adequate to the end. It was no way surprising, that *Joshua* with a large army of chosen men, should subdue a city that had only twelve thousand inhabitants. On the other hand, when the walls of *Jericho* fell down before *Israel*, it was great and wonderful, because there was no second cause that could produce such an effect, it discovered the immediate hand of God.

God did great things for *Israel*, when he deliver'd them from their bondage in *Egypt*. He free'd them from the most abject slavery, and brought them into a large place : And he accomplished this deliverance by a series of wonders.—He did great things for them at the red sea, when he dried up the sea for their passage, and caused the waters to return  
and



and overwhelm *Pharaoh* with his host.—He did great things for them, when “in the day time he  
 “led them with a cloud, and all the night with a  
 “light of fire”. When “he bro’t streams out of  
 “the rock, and caused waters to run down like  
 “rivers”. When he “rained manna upon them  
 “to eat, and gave them of the corn of Heaven.  
 “Man did eat Angel’s food, he sent them meat to  
 “the full”.—He did great things for them, when  
 he drove the heathen out of *Canaan*, and gave  
*Israel* quiet possession of that good land.—He did  
 great things for them afterwards, in preserving a  
 people, so distinguished by their religion and their  
 laws from all other nations ; a people surrounded  
 with great and mighty enemies, who hated, who  
 envied them, and often combined for their de-  
 struction. Great part of the old testament is a  
 history of the surprising things God did for  
*Israel*. And you find their religious Leaders and  
 Princes not only joining, but going before their  
 people in their devout acknowledgements ; they  
 often composed songs of praise on the occasion :  
 So did *Moses*, so did *David* and others. And how  
 well did it become them, thus to pay their “vows  
 “unto the Lord in the presence of his people” !  
 How truly great and noble does a triumphant  
 General appear, going up to the house of the Lord ;  
 resigning as it were his laurels and trophies of  
 victory to the great Governor of the world ; praising  
 his

## 14 A *Thanksgiving* SERMON.

his glorious name, in the language of that great Prince & successful General King *David*; “Thine, “O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and “the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for “all that is in the heaven and in the earth in thine; “thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art ex- “alted as head above all” ! Methinks, a General in such an act of religion, appears in an attitude far superior to a Roman Dictator, entering their city in triumph; which, with respect to external pomp and grandeur, was one of the most glorious sights in the world.

It is very true, God often wrought miracles in favor of his people *Israel*: He delivered them in ways above, or contrary to the common course and laws of nature. But this was not always the case: There was at other times the intervention of second causes; their Generals were bred to arms, they were men of courage and skill; their troops were regular, disciplin’d, and inured to war. In these instances, as well as the other, they gave the glory of all their success to God; they acknowledged, “that His right hand and his holy arm had gotten “Him the victory”.

THAT God governs the world, is a truth we are taught both by reason and revelation. No event comes to pass without the concurrence of his providence;

## A Thanksgiving SERMON. 15

vidence : We are therefore obliged to him, when things go well with us, in whatever way the effect is produc'd. The more signal a favor is, or the more extraordinary the way in which it is granted ; so much the more evident is the hand of God, and so much the more loudly does He call upon us to bless and praise his glorious name.

GOD has done marvellous things for his Church, since miracles have ceased : And in some of them, there has been such an uncommon concurrence of circumstances, as has been almost equal to a miracle : The hand of God has been as visible, and there have been as certain marks of divine power and goodness.

It would take more time than you would be willing to allow me, only to mention the great things which God has done, since Messiah appear'd and set up his kingdom in the world.

THE Christian Church may adopt that language of the Psalmist ; “ many a time have they afflicted me from my youth up may *Israel* now say, many a time have they afflicted me from my youth ; “ yet they have not prevailed against me”. It has met with the most violent assaults and cruel persecutions. It hath been “ troubled on every side, “ but not oppressed ; perplexed, but not in “ despair ;

## 16 A *Thanksgiving* SERMON.

“despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed”. It has been like “the bush that burned with fire, and was not consumed”. And oftentimes it has come forth with greater brightness than before.—This was the case at the Reformation from popery. This had so small beginnings and was so violently oppos’d, that to a human view of things it must soon have an end. But so mercifully did God interpose; that in a few years, many sovereign Princes embrac’d the reformed religion, and stood up to patronize and defend it: So that the most formidable leagues, and severe proscriptions, together with the efforts of the bloody court of inquisition, were ineffectual to extirpate what the enemies of the Reformation ignorantly called the northern heresy. In less than\* forty years from the time *Luther* appear’d against the Pope’s indulgences, the Protestant religion became established in *Germany*, and filled near half of *Europe*.

ENGLAND soon shook off the papal yoke, and became the bulwark of the Protestant cause. But how often have it’s religious, as well as civil liberties

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\* *Luther* began the Reformation in 1517---in 1552 was the treaty of *Passau*, between the Emperor *Charles Vth.* and the protestant princes and states. When the protestants were not only secured in the free exercise of their religion, but protestant judges were admitted into the imperial chamber, and men were allowed to swear without invoking the saints.

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liberties been bro't into the most imminent hazard !  
Soon a furious bigot \* to the Church of *Rome* as-  
cended the throne, and raised a persecution that  
kept *Smithfield* in a continual blaze.—God in mercy  
cut short her reign, and placed Queen *Elizabeth*  
at the head of the kingdom, who restored things  
nearly to the state they were in the reign of King  
*Edward VI*th.

THE enemies of our religion were ever contriv-  
ing the destruction of that great Princess. The  
prospect seemed most threatening in the year 1588,  
when the Spaniards sent out an Armada against  
*England*, which their infallible Head pronounced  
invincible. But the God of heaven soon made it  
evident that " in the thing wherein they dealt  
" proudly, he was above them". He " blew with  
" his wind" and they were scattered, as was religi-  
ously acknowledged on the medals which were  
struck upon the occasion.

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THIS open attempt being unsuccessful, our  
popish adversaries have ever since been forming  
plots and conspiracies to overthrow our religion  
and liberties.

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God wrought wonderfully for us ; when there  
was in his providence such a seasonable discovery  
of the infernal design to take off King, Lords and  
C Commons

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\* Queen MARY,



## 18 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

Commons at one blast, and to make a bloody massacre at the same time all over the kingdom. \*

It was a no less merciful fifth of *November* ; when the glorious Prince of *Orange* landed in *England*, to deliver the nation from popery and arbitrary power, with which it was awfully threatned : The happy consequences of which were felt by all *Europe*. By this illustrious event, a stop was put to the progress of the French tyrant *Louis 14th*, who was making large strides to universal monarchy.—And in the next reign, that haughty Monarch was so humbled by the British arms, conducted by that great and successful General *John Duke of Marlborough*, that he must soon have received peace on our own terms, if he had not prevailed more by secret arts than he could do by open force. By his intrigues in the court of *Great-Britain*, he obtained a peace, which has been the fatal cause of most of the evils we have suffered since.

If we take a view of events on this side the Atlantic, we have the greatest reason to use the language of our text ; “ The Lord hath done great things for us”.

Our Fathers came into this land, when they were few, very few in number. “ God bare them as on eagles wings”, He carried them thro’ a sea of difficulties,

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\* This plot was to have been executed Nov. 5th 1605.

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difficulties, which would have discouraged men who were not influenced by religion. Inspired by this, they chose to venture their lives among salvages, rather than to give up their religious liberty, and the rights of conscience. God has remarkably owned their zeal for his cause and ways. Our Fathers only sought an asylum from the storm of persecution, and where they might in quiet enjoy their civil & religious privileges ; God has prospered and increased us, so that we are become a comparatively great people. It may be said of us, as the Psalmist speaks of God's *Israel* of old, 80 *Psal.* 8. (except that I would not compare our mother-kingdom to *Egypt* ; with whatever severity the puritans were treated in *England*, the nation as a nation were not chargeable with it, the greater part of whom had those measures in detestation : And even among those who governed affairs, there is room to hope there were some who had " a zeal " for God", tho' we are persuaded it was not " according to knowledge".) " Thou hast", says the Psalmist, " brought a vine out of *Egypt* ; thou " hast cast out the heathen and planted it ; thou " preparedst room before it and didst cause it to take " deep root, and it filled the land. The hills were " covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs " thereof were like the goodly cedars. She sent " out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches " unto the river".

## 20 A *Thanksgiving* SERMON.

IT pleased God to leave the natives of the land, as he did the Canaanites of old for the trial of his people *Israel*, "to be as pricks in their eyes, and as thorns in their sides". Many a time did they form designs to cut off the first settlers of *New-England*. And when we consider their numbers, their warlike disposition, and their perfect acquaintance with the country, it appears a wonder of divine goodness they did not attain their end. But sometimes their mutual jealousies have prevented the execution of their designs, & turned their arms against one another; at other times, when they were just ready to execute their purposes, God has discovered and disappointed them. "The snare has broken and we have escaped". They are now so wasted by sickness, and diminished by continual wars, that if we had no other neighbours we should not have much to fear from them. "The Lord is King for ever, the heathen are perished out of his land".

THE other neighbours I refer'd to are the French, who have settled a long extent of country on the back of the British Colonies. Their numbers have been comparatively small, but agreeable to the grasping temper that nation has ever discovered, they have been gradually drawing nearer to us, as if they hoped in process of time to drive us into the sea. They have been, for a long course of  
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years, the cause of the wars we have had with the natives, they have supplied the Indians with arms and ammunition, they have filled them with prejudices against the English, they have encouraged them in inhumanities unknown to civilized nations, and have paid them for the mischief they did. They have often united with the salvages, to commit ravages on our frontiers, "to burn whole towns and villages, to butcher the people in cold blood, and to perpetrate the most unmanly cruelties upon the women and children". These things have justly raised the resentments of the English colonies against them. Their defensive wars they found only thinned their numbers & wasted their treasure, without any hope of seeing a period put to the Indian tragedies; they have therefore found it necessary to attack the French in their turn, whom they justly look'd upon as the authors of their miseries, and to put it out of their power to molest them. For this end many expeditions have been form'd, which have been carried on with various success.

WHILE the province of *L'Acadie* or *Nova-Scotia* was in subjection to the *French*, the *New-England* colonies, who felt the most pernicious effects from it, usually made their first attempts upon that. But they have, from the days of our fathers, extended their views further, it has been the general thought that

## 22 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

that *Canada* must be reduced, or the country could not be safe.

It may not be foreign to the business of the day to give you a brief account of the designs which have been formed, and the attempts which have been made against the *French* in this part of the world. By this you will see what troublesome neighbours they have always been esteem'd : What expences we have been put to on their account : and how much better our situation is by the conquests of this year, than it has ever been before : Which I hope will tend to raise your souls in gratitude to God, who has so remarkably appeared for us,

So long ago as the year 1627 and 1628, \* Sir *David Kirke* expelled the French from both sides the river *St. Lawrence*, and after sending them to *England*, took possession of all *Nova-Scotia* and *Canada*. They were unhappily ceded to *France* at the conclusion of a peace.

THE next expedition we have any account of was in 1654, when *Oliver Cromwell* sent Col. *Sedgwick* to reduce *Nova-Scotia*, who recovered the country for the *English*. And altho a treaty was concluded in  
1655,

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\* In transcribing this discourse for the press, I have made this historical narration of our expeditions against the French, much more particular than it was in the delivery. I tho't some might choose to have them all in one view.



## A Thanksgiving SERMON. 23

1655, and “ the *French* ambassadors made pressing instances for the restitution of that country, yet it was not delivered up, but remained under the jurisdiction of *England*” : It was again given up to the *French* in the reign of *Charles* 2d. In these expeditions, *New-England* was no otherwise concern’d, than as they were interested in the consequences.

In 1690, the eastern parts being greatly distressed by the incursions of the *French* and *Indians* ; Sir *William Phips* was sent by the *Massachusetts* Province to reduce *Nova-Scotia*, and in a short time added this important colony to the *English* dominions. \*

THE success of this expedition encouraged the people of *New-England*, in conjunction with *New-York*, to make a vigorous attack upon *Canada* the same year, both by sea and land.—The plan seems to have been well laid,† but by a series of accidents the

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\* It was giv’n up to the *French* at the peace of *Ryswick*, 1697.

† 1000 *English* with 1500 *Indians* were to march from *Albany* to attack *Montreal*, while Sir *William Phips*, with 2000, laid siege to *Quebec*. Dr. *Colden* in his *History* of the five nations informs us that 300 of the troops that were to go from *Albany* passed the lake, but met with such a warm reception, that they returned to *Albany*, August 11. The fleet set sail from *Boston* Aug. 9. but did not arrive at *Quebec* ’till Oct. 5. when the season was so far advanced, that allowing there was no misconduct, it is not to be wonder’d at that nothing was done to purpose. Many transports were lost, and some say 1000 men

## 24 A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N.

the expedition proved unsuccessful, many of our chosen young men lost their lives, and it brought poverty and disgrace on the country. We became "a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and a derision to those that were round about us".

THE *French* in *Nova-Scotia* continually encreasing, and growing more formidable by their depredations on the trade of the colonies and incursions into the country, the *New-England* colonies in 1707, made an attempt on *Port-Royal*, now *Annapolis*, which did not succeed.

IN 1709, Queen *Anne* signified to the colonies her intentions to reduce *Canada*, and directed them to get ready their quota. They on their part with the greatest cheerfulness complied with the motion.\* "They raised their men immediately, cloth'd them handsomely, and disciplin'd them for the service, and had laid up magazines of provisions both for their own and the Queen's troops then shortly expected": But the fleet appointed for that expedition was detain'd so long by contrary winds, or some other cause, that the season was too far advanced to proceed in the design.

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men in that expedition. "The French tho't themselves in such danger at that time, that they attributed their deliverance to the immediate protection of Heaven. And for this reason the people of *Quebec* make an annual procession, in commemoration of this deliverance". [Dr. COLDEN.]

\* Mr. *Dummer's* Letter to a noble Lord.

## A Thanksgiving SERMON. 25

IN 1710, Col. *Nicholson* with an army of provincials, joined by 500 marines from *Great-Britain*, made another attack on *Port-Royal*, and reduced that and the neighbouring country, to subjection to the Crown of *Great-Britain*. \*

IN 1711, *Canada* again became the object of attention; a large body of veteran troops with twelve ships of war were employed in the service, and all warlike stores were provided in great abundance. At the time these were to go up the river *St. Laurence*, Col. *Nicholson* was sent with an army of provincials and Indians, to make a diversion on the side of *Montreal*. You all know how fatally † that expedition issued, whether by casualty or treachery, must be left to the decision of that great day, when "God will judge the secrets of men, by " that man whom he hath ordained".

No wonder, if by such disappointments in our designs against *Canada*, our ardor was somewhat abated: And some wise and good men were ready to think, that Providence pointed out our duty, to make no further attempts to dispossess the French of their country.

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HOWEVER,

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\* By the 13th Article in the treaty of *Utrecht* 1713, all *Nova-Scotia* was ceded to *Great-Britain*. But in the very next article the island of *Cape-Breton*, which was undoubtedly a part of it, was given up to the *French*, with liberty to fortify.

† Eight transports were lost, and 884 men.

## 26 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

HOWEVER, the destruction of *Canfo* at the breaking out of the last French war, \* the repeated attempts upon *Annapolis*, the danger of our fishery, and indeed of the whole trade of these northern colonies, soon alarmed them, raised their martial spirit, and put them on an expedition against *Louisbourg*, the *Dunkirk* of *North-America*, as the only course they could take to secure themselves. An expedition, which ought never to be forgotten by the children of *New-England*. You cannot but remember, how God, by a series of extraordinary providences, deliver'd that strong fortress into the hands of a little army of *New-England* men ; none of whom, perhaps, had ever seen a siege, or been present in a battle before. God wrought wonderfully for us. He taught their hands to war, and their fingers to fight. Thrô God they did valiantly ; He trod down their enemies under them. †

THE conquest of *Cape-Breton* led the ministry to think of an expedition against *Canada*. A plan was laid in *England*, to attack it the next year by land and

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\* May 24, 1744.

† Governor *Shirley* first recommended this expedition to the Assembly about the middle of Jan. 1744, 5. --- It was voted Jan. 25. Lieut. General *Pepperrell*, who was appointed Commander in chief, sailed with the *Massachusetts* troops, Mar. 24. They landed April 30. *Louisbourg* was surrender'd June 17. Our army consisted of about 4000. The garison and inhabitants capable of bearing arms, amounted to 2000. We lost during the siege 101 men killed by the enemy and all other accidents ; and 30 died of sickness.

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and sea. Eight battalions of regular troops were to be employed in this service, in conjunction with such provincials, as could be raised in time for it in *North-America*, together with a squadron of his Majesty's ships. The *New-England* troops were to proceed with the regular forces up the river *St Laurence*, those raised in the southern colonies were to rendezvous at *Albany*, and to proceed from thence to *Montreal*. The colony troops to the number of 8200 were raised with great chearfulness, and every thing on our part was ready in season. But by some means or other, the fleet from *England* was employ'd another way, and the expedition against *Canada* was laid aside.

THE same year, (1746) the *French* sent a very formidable armament to *Chebuſto*, (now *Halifax*) in order to reduce *Nova-Scotia*, and every other way to annoy the English in these parts. So that instead of going against the country of our enemies, we every moment expected a visit from them in our own. But God, who has all nature at his command, soon delivered us from our fears. They were so diminished by sickness, and dispersed by storms, that they were render'd incapable of attempting any thing. "Some ships they themselves burnt for want of men to navigate them: Some of them were lost, and others taken in their



## 28 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

return home". So that this great Armada, which has been said to consist of near half the naval force of *France*, was in a great measure destroyed. In this, we were only called to "stand still and see the salvation of the Lord".

BUT it is time to come to more recent events.

It was stipulated in the treaty of *Aix-la-Chapelle*, that "all things should be restored to the same condition in *North-America*, in which they were, or ought to have been since the treaty of *Utrecht*". And in consequence of another article in the treaty, commissaries were appointed, in an amicable way to examine and discuss all points in dispute. "One of the principal stipulations which accompanied the nomination of commissaries was, that the countries upon which they were to decide, should suffer no alteration in the mean time". Instead of conforming to these articles of agreement, which would have been the most probable method of terminating the differences between the two nations; the *French*, in direct opposition to them, built forts in places, which if they were not indisputably ours, yet it was disputable to whom they belong'd: They imprison'd British Subjects who were engag'd in a lawful trade: They attack'd those fortresses which their encroachments obliged us to erect: Their evident design was to get possession of the whole country

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country that was not improved, which would soon capacitate them to invade that which was.

THESE encroachments and the hostilities which were connected with them, at length alarm'd the British ministry: And after having in vain tried every other method, they determin'd to oppose force to force.

ACCORDINGLY in 1755, General *Braddock* was sent to reduce the French forts upon the *Ohio*. The event of that expedition was melancholly; our army was defeated, the General himself was killed, there was a terrible carnage of both officers and foldiers, and the enemy became possessed of our artillery, ammunition, provisions and baggage.

THIS inglorious defeat was in a great measure balanced, by the success at lake *George*, when a *French* army was defeated, their General wounded and taken prisoner, and great numbers were slain.—The same year, the forts of *Nova-Scotia* were reduced, the perfidious French inhabitants were removed, and that important province secured to the British Crown more effectually than ever; a province, which in the hands of the French, might be more dangerous to us even than *Canada* itself.—These Successes were more sensibly felt

### 30 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

felt by us, as they were granted by Heav'n to our brethren and countrymen.

IN 1756, war was declared against *France*; and great preparations were made for a vigorous attack on their fortresses in *America*. But it proved on our part an inactive campaign. It was not so on the side of our enemies. General *Montcalm* laid siege to *Oswego*, a fortress which had cost the Crown great sums, and which was the only place we possess'd on either of the five great lakes; after a faint resistance it was surrender'd, the works were demolished, the garison were carried captive, and a great quantity of warlike stores fell into the enemy's hands.

IN 1757, God saw fit, in his righteous providence, again to visit us with losses and disappointments; a large fleet and army arrived at *Halifax*, with a design, as was supposed, to make an attempt on *Louisbourg*: But while we were in hope to hear of great things done by them, we received news that the army was returning, and all tho'ts of the expedition were laid aside. Our fleet indeed appear'd before the harbour of *Louisbourg*, but there met with a terrible storm, in which many ships were dismasted, and one was wholly lost. At the westward we lost fort *William-Henry* with many circumstances

## A Thanksgiving SERMON. 31

stances of reproach ; after the surrender, a number of our brethren were inhumanly massacred by the salvages in the *French* army.

THE last year, (1758) God gave us occasion to sing of mercy and of judgment. *Louisbourg* again surrender'd \* to British troops, commanded by General *Amberst*, and covered by a squadron of his Majesty's ships under the command of Admiral *Boscawen*. The garrison was numerous, and aided by five ships of the line in the harbour. But the siege was conducted with so much wisdom, that we sustained very little loss, and the ships in the harbour were all taken or destroyed before the city capitulated, which greatly diminished the French naval force.

ON the other hand, our army before *Ticonderoga* or *Carilon* met with a humbling repulse, and after having sustained great loss, † retired over the lake, to the surprise of the whole country ; while our enemies triumph'd, and laughed us to scorn.

OUR disgrace was in a degree wiped away, by the brave and successful enterprize against fort *Frontenac*, the grand magazine for the forts to the southward, which was wholly destroyed, || with its artillery,

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\* July 26. † This Action was July 8, when near 2000 of the English army were killed, wounded, and missing.

|| August 27.

## 32 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

artillery, stores and a vast quantity of provisions and goods.—The happy consequence of which was, the French demolished Fort *du Quesne* \* and left us in possession of the country around it ; and the southern provinces were delivered from the depredations and barbarities of the Indians in those parts.

AFTER such a mixt state of things, which have only tended to lengthen out the war, God has at length bro't us to a year that is full of illustrious events. A year which has been "as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds".

THE ships appointed for the American service were not detained in the channel by contrary winds; they were not broken by storms ; or distressed by sickness. The Admiral † who was set over the fleet, the Generals who were to lead our armies, were men of tried courage and conduct. Men that loved their country, and were willing to venture their lives to promote it's interest. We have heard of no distance and suspicion between land and sea officers on the one hand, of no jealousies and animosities between regulars and provincials on the other. There has been a mutual confidence and harmony every where, and each one has endeavour'd in his station  
to

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\* November 24.

† Admiral SAUNDERS.

## A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N. 33

to serve the common cause.—An omen this of the success with which our arms have been blest'd, as it had a happy tendency to produce it.

THE messengers who brought the news of our acquisitions, followed one another in a quick succession.

FIRST, the garrison of *Niagara* surrender'd prisoners of war, \* and we gained possession of that important pass, which is much the best way of communication, the French have with their settlements to the southward.

THIS conquest was preceded by two advantages over the enemy, with which it was very nearly connected, & which deserve our thankful notice.—The first † was, when a party of near two thousand French and Indians attack'd *Oswego*, where was our magazine for the supply of the troops before *Niagara*; the loss of which, would have been of fatal consequence to that expedition. But the party met with such a warm reception, that they soon retired with considerable loss.

THE other advantage was ‡ over 1200 French, and several hundred Indians from *Venango*. These troops were collected with a view to attack *Pittsburgh*, (once fort *du Quesne*,) but turned their course

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\* July 25.

† July 5 & 6.

‡ July 24.



## 34 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

in hope to raise the siege of *Niagara*. The whole party was defeated with very great loss ; which greatly expedited the surrender of this, as well as secured the other fort.

ABOUT the same time,\* after a faint resistance, our army under General *Amherst* became possess'd of the fort and lines of *Ticonderoga* ; before which, our troops met with such a fatal repulse the last year.

IN a few days, *Crown Point*, which has been for many years, such a terror to these northern colonies, was abandoned by the French and in possession of the English †

THUS these three forts, the reduction of either of which would, in former campaigns, have crowned a General with laurel, were in a short space brought under the English dominion, with very little effusion of blood. “ It is the Lord’s doing, it is marvellous in our eyes”

AND yet, God has caused us to see greater things than these.—Amidst all the joy which arose in our breasts, at the success of the British arms to the westward ; our hearts were in pain for the brave General *Wolfe*, who with his little army was encamp’d before *Quebec*, and opposed by the main strength  
of

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\* July 27.

† August 4.

## A Thanksgiving SERMON. 35

of *Canada*, commanded by M. *Montcalm*, a name too well known among us. We had heard of the difficulties with which this army struggled ; of the repulse it had at one time met with ; of the strength of the city ; of the numbers that defended it ; of the impenetrable lines, behind which they had secured themselves. Our last advices were, that the General had made such a change in the situation of our army, as was like to bring on something decisive.—The event has been agreeable to these expectations. It bro't on the battle, † which has decided the fate of *Quebec* ; which has decided, tis probable, the fate of *Canada* ; that country, which we were ready to fear was never to be conquered ; at least, it gives us reason to hope for this happy consequence.

THE surrender of this important fortress, is an event truly great.—It is great, as the welfare of this country is nearly affected with it ; it breaks all the designs of the French ; and affords an agreeable prospect, that our civil and religious privileges will be continued to posterity.—It is great, as we may hope, it will put an end to the ravages of the Indians on our frontiers.—It is great, as it was attended with difficulties, which would have been insurmountable to any, but a General of such heroic fortitude and consummate skill, such fine officers,

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and

## 36 A Thanksgiving SERMON.

and such intrepid soldiers.—It is great, as our army in the battle which introduc'd it, was oppos'd by near twice their number, with a General at their head of great experience in the art of war, and who had not yet failed in any attempt he had made.—It is great, as these colonies have had this conquest so long in view, and have met with so many disappointments in their designs against it.—It is great to us, as we were ready to give up all hopes of success ; and no doubt, had we failed in this last attempt, we must have giv'n over the expedition ; the consequences of which, who can tell ? So low were our expectations sunk, that when the news, that *Quebec* was in the possession of the English, first arrived, we could scarce think it a reality :

“ It seem'd at first a pleasing dream  
“ of what we wish'd to see”.

“ THEN WAS our mouth filled with laughter,  
“ and our tongue with singing” ; joy was painted on every countenance, but no one knew how to express what he felt.—

AND yet there was something, that seem'd to check our joy ; something that teaches us, we are not to look for unmixed happiness in the present state. The same messenger, that brought the tidings of the victory, and of the great acquisition  
that

## A *Thanksgiving* SERMON. 37

that followed it, brought the tidings also, that the brave General, to whom under God we were chiefly indebted for it, was fallen. Tender of his soldiers lives he exposed his own. He lived long enough, to put his troops in the way to victory. He lived, till he saw the enemy vanquish'd ; and then, as if satisfied with life, he resigned his great soul, and bid adieu to the world and all things in it.

How uncertain is earthly glory ! at least the enjoyment of it is uncertain. To what honors would this great Commander have been advanced, by his gracious Prince, and under an administration, that is able to distinguish merit, and is just to reward it !—He is taken from them all.—He is taken away in the prime of life, when he might have lived the ornament and defence of his country. O Lord, how unsearchable are thy judgments, thy ways are past finding out ! If such dispensations are dark and mysterious ; yet God, we know, is wise and good. And by the death of such a Leader, we are taught to “ cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, “ and to trust in the living God”.

To this glorious Being, all success is ultimately to be ascribed. The greatest and the best of men, those who perform the most eminent services, are but instruments in his hand, “ who doth according to his will in the armies of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth”.

IN

### 38 A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N.

IN every step of the expedition, the success of which we are this day called particularly to commemorate, we are to eye the Providence of God. "The Lord hath done great things for us". He conducted our ships up that difficult river, which, from the disaster in the year 1711, has been represented as almost impassable for Englishmen.—He preserved them in that terrible storm, with which they were visited, soon after their arrival at the place of their destination. He carried our forces thro' the difficulties and dangers of the siege.—He preserved their health and sent them supplies.—He inspired our troops with courage in the time of action, to stand against the repeated discharge of the enemy without shrinking, or shewing the least signs of fear? And then to rush on with such vehemence and ardor, as carried all before them.—He removed the French General, who, if he had survived, might very much have changed the appearance of things. In fine, it was God, the great Ruler of the universe, that gave *Quebec* into our hands. Not unto us, not unto us, O Lord, but to thy name we give glory. He denied this salvation to our Fathers; He has granted it unto us, unworthy as we are of his goodness. "Let us sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously".

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## A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N. 39

It is impossible, but we should be affected with such surprising success : Nature will have it's course ; our breasts will expand with joy, when we meet with things that are very pleasing to us. The only enquiry then is, whether we shall turn the course of it into a religious channel, and give glory to God " who only doth wondrous things". And this, I hope, is no question at all in this audience.

LET us then " abundantly utter the memory of his great goodness, and sing of his righteousness". While we speak well of his name, and acknowledge our obligations to him, let us not affront him by our impiety and disobedience. Let us render to the Lord according to his benefits ; and evidence that we are sincerely thankful, by " bringing forth those fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of God". The judgments of Heav'n have not reclaimed us, may we be melted by mercies ! May the goodness of God lead us to repentance.

LET us be encouraged to the duty of prayer. We may humbly hope, that God has heard the many prayers that have been going up to him, and in answer to them, has granted such great success to the British arms. Let us still acknowledge God in all our ways, that he may direct our paths.

WE



## 40 A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N.

WE have not put off the harness. General *Amberst* is yet in the field, and has arduous things before him : If this wise Commander should attempt to pass the lake, as seems to be his design, we may expect he will meet with great difficulties and dangers. It becomes us then to rejoice with holy fear and trembling, and to prepare for every event.

WHILE we contemplate with sacred gratitude, on the surprising turn of affairs in *America*, we ought not to forget the smiles of Heaven, on the arms of *Great-Britain* and her allies in *Europe* ; in whose prosperity we are deeply interested.

THRO' the signal favour of providence, the vast preparations of the enemy to invade *England*, have hitherto proved, as we hope they always will, only impotent menaces : while the British fleets have sailed triumphant before the French ports, and have been able to annoy them on their own coasts.

"THE Lord, the God of Heaven, who hath made the sea and the dry land", hath again broken the enemies naval strength, which touches them in a very tender part, as it greatly encreases our superiority, where it most concerns us to be superior.

To

## A *Thanksgiving* S E R M O N. 41

To this great Being, we also ascribe the glorious victory, obtained by the allied army conducted by the illustrious Prince *Ferdinand*.

THE success of our troops in *Germany* is of the greater importance to us, as the French army was approaching our King's hereditary dominions there: By subduing those, they might hope to make themselves amends for our acquisitions in *America*, and at length to recover them. These hopes we trust are now destroyed.

MAY the God of armies still conduct our forces both by sea and land; may He tread down our enemies under us; and dispose them to reasonable terms of peace, the only end we ought to aim at in war.

I CANNOT finish, without dropping a tear over the calamities of war. What an *Aceldama*! What a field of blood! has sin made this world, that was once a paradise. How melancholy the necessity, which calls the sons of *Adam* to destroy one another!—

WE pity our enemies: We are grieved to think of the distress and misery to which they are justly reduced. We wish them all the comfort, that is consistent with our own security. We heartily wish  
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## 42 A *Thanksgiving* SERMON.

and pray, that by means of the conquest we have made, they may come to an acquaintance with the sacred scriptures, may be recover'd from popish superstition and error, and may have all spiritual and eternal blessings.

MAY the Gospel in it's purity be carried among the natives of the land. The present situation of things affords a fine opportunity, to spread the knowledge of our blessed Redeemer among every distant tribes. I hope we shall not be backward to embrace it. Who can tell, but for this cause, God hath granted those successes, in which we now rejoice? The greatest obstructions to this good work are now removed. It will be a melancholy consideration, if there are none found, that are willing to send, or to be sent on this important errand.—I had rather entertain the pleasing thought, that the Redeemer's Kingdom is like to be enlarged, and that he is about to take possession of these "dark places of the earth, which are full of the habitations of cruelty".—There will be a time, when the religion of Jesus will prevail throughout the world: We ought to hope and pray for that time, when the "Spirit will be poured out on all flesh", and in consequence of it, wars shall cease from the earth; and the state of the Church, which will extend thro' the world, will be serene and happy:—When men of all nations will love one another,  
live

## *A Thanksgiving* S E R M O N. 43

live quietly together, and abound in acts of kindness and charity—" When they shall not hurt nor destroy in all this holy mountain ; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea".—We are not like to see these happy days ; it will abundantly satisfy us, if we arrive at the world of love and peace which is above.

*A M E N.*

